

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4072
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0816

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MARR
SUBJ: TURKISH ATTITUDE TOWARDS NATO

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: LONDON 1706 NOTAL

1. WE ARE STRUCK BY NEW TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S PUBLIC STATEMENT IN INTERVIEW WITH "SAM COHEN" PUBLISHED IN GUARDIAN THAT NATO IS "NOT SUFFICIENT" FOR TURKEY'S SECURITY AND HINTS THAT NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT FIND IT NECESSARY TO CREATE INDEPENDENT STRIKE FORCE. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ANKARA'S ASSESSMENT.

2. ASSUMING ARTICLE IS ACCURATE AND REFLECTS POLICY COORDINATED WITH GENERAL STAFF, FONMIN'S STATEMENT MAY REFLECT SIGNS OF TURKISH DISENCHANTMENT WE HAVE OBSERVED HERE IN PAST YEAR:
(A) DIVERGENT TURKISH AND US PERCEPTIONS OF INTERESTS IN
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MIDDLE EAST CRISIS; (B) TURKISH CONCERN THAT PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR AGREEMENT MAY LIMIT US OPTION FOR NUCLEAR DEFENSE OF NATO, DESPITE US CLARIFICATIONS OF INTENT OF AGREEMENTS; AND (C) TURKISH SENSITIVITY ABOUT SECURITY ASPECTS

OF ITS EXCLUSION FROM INTEGRATION OF WESTERN EUROPE IN EC-NINE FRAMEWORK.

3. STATEMENT CAN ALSO BE SEEN AS CONVEYING CERTAIN MESSAGES TO NATO ALLIES: (A) TO BRING HOME TO DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN VIENNA MBFR TALKS THE DEPTH OF TURKEY'S PREOCCUPATION WITH EFFECTS OF NBFR ON SECURITY OF FLANKS; AND/OR (B) TO INFLUENCE US ATTITUDES ON BARIOUS BILATERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING NO DOUBT US ARMS ASSISTANCE POLICY AS WELL AS OPIUM AND BASE ISSUES MENTIONED IN STATEMENT.

4. POSSIBILITY REMAINS THAT AIRTICLE MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY ACCURATE, AND WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS AS ITS AUTHENTICITY. TURKISH DCM TULUMEN ADVISED US FEB 8 THAT AURTHOR SAM COHEN IS PRESUMABLY SAMI KOHEN, A TURKISH NATIONAL WHO IS FOREIGN POLICY EDITOR OF MILLIYET. TULUMEN ALSO ADVISED THAT HE IS PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH KOHEN, AND CONSIDERS TO BE AUTHORITY, ACCURATE REPORTER WHO IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH. AFTER CHECKING WITH LOCAL MILLIYET OFFICE, TULUMEN FURTHER INFORMED US THAT ANOTHER RENDITION OF INTERVIEW, WHICH APPEARED IN MILLIYET FEB 4, HAD BEEN FILED BY A CORRESPONDENT WAS WITH KOHEN DURING INTERVIEW. HOWEVER, GUARDIAN AND MILLIYET VERSIONS ARE QUITE DIFFERENT. RUMSFELD

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